

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MAINTAINING FORWARD AND BACKWARD
5 COMPATIBILITY IN FLATTENED OBJECT STREAMS

A method, a system, an apparatus, and a computer
program product are presented for object-oriented
management of serializable objects. An object has a set
10 of attributes and a class version number, which
identifies the object as an instance of a specific
version of a class. In addition, each attribute in the
object has an attribute version number, which may
represent a version of a class in which the associated
15 attribute was initially declared within the class. The
object may be serialized into a data stream, and the data
stream has the class version number of the object, an
attribute value for each attribute in the set of
attributes, and an attribute version number for each
20 attribute in the set of attributes. The data stream may
also have a class identifier for the class of the object
and an attribute count for the set of attributes into the
data stream.

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